

TESTING THE VALIDITY OF A CITY ORDINANCE—INTERESTING CASE TO SEWING-MACHINE COMPANIES—DECISION RESERVED—CHANCE RECEIPTS AND TOBACCO EXPORTS—INSTALLATION SERVICES—FISHING PARTIES.

(Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.)

MAY 17, 1879.

A case which is of interest to all sewing-machine companies doing business in this State is pending in the Hustings Court of Petersburg. It is that of The City of Petersburg vs. M. W. True, local agent of the Singer Sewing-Machine Company, and the Singer Sewing-Machine Company, and the case has been sent to the City of Petersburg to decide the validity of the ordinance of the city regarding the sale of the manufacture of sewing-machines by other States to take out a license. The case came before the Hustings Court to-day on an appeal from the decision of the Mayor, and was favorably argued on the law and the facts by Captain J. A. Hatter for the city, and Messrs Charles R. A. Hatter and Joseph S. Budd for the defendant. The following points were made by the defense: First, that the city ordinance does not apply, because the Singer Manufacturing Company, having taken out a license, is privileged to sell their machines in the city without an additional license; second, that the ordinance, if it is applied, is inconsistent with Article 1, section 8, of the Constitution of the United States, which provides that Congress shall have the power to regulate commerce between the States; third, that letters-patent, issued under the laws of Congress, give the patentees the right to sell their articles wherever in the United States, and the right of the city or State to tax such sales is inconsistent with the rights vested under the patent laws of the United States.

The City of Petersburg took the papers for consideration, and will deliver an opinion during the week.

The internal-revenue collections in the Petersburg district for the week ending to-day amounted to \$38,896. The total collections for the month thus far amount to \$177,043.

The exports of manufactured tobacco from this city during the present week aggregated 123,500 pounds. It will thus be seen that great activity exists among our tobaccoists, both as to the home and foreign trade. In view of this activity, and the fact that the season for ordering will soon be at hand, there is a great deal of tobacco hanging in the bars throughout this section.

The installation of Rev. S. K. Wynn as pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church in this city will take place on Sunday next. The sermon on the occasion will be preached by Rev. T. L. Preston, D. D., of Richmond. Rev. J. M. Rose, of Portsmouth, will deliver the charge to the pastor, and Rev. T. D. Witherspoon, D. D., the charge to the people. All the Presbyterian congregations in the city will unite in the service.

Forty-a dozen excursion parties went out by rail and private conveyances to-day to spend the day at the different ponds and streams in the adjacent counties. The fishing has been very fine for some days, and great quantities of fish have been taken.

John McDonald, whose illness from leprosy has been mentioned, died to-day, having been unable to eat anything for nearly a week. The disease was caused by running a nail in the foot, and did not make its appearance for two weeks after the accident.

An adjourned session of East Hanover Presbytery will be held here to-night.

ROBIN ADAMS.

DANVILLE.

(Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.)

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Rev. J. J. World, of Raleigh, N. C., has been called to the pastorate of the Loyal-Street (colored) Baptist church, of which Elder S. H. Gary was formerly the pastor. After eliminating many indiscretions and some contradictory statements, I think I may report that Elder Gary has the sympathy and support of a majority of the members on the one hand, and that, on the other, the deacons and the trustees of the church, supported by a very considerable portion of the members, are against him, and are determined that he shall not have the use of the church for either religious or secular purposes. The foreword of the names of some of the officers of the church with which he is charged is said to have been committed some time last year, and the charge was held back for some time because it was believed that the evidence could not be produced before court and for other reasons. There was also a charge of bigamy against Elder Gary, but there was no evidence upon this point before the court, and that charge was dismissed.

Mr. Henry H. Ferguson, a highly-esteemed citizen of this county, and for many years one of the most prominent and able educators in Germany, sent a letter to-day, died at his residence on the 12th instant, in his eighty-fourth year.

The candidates for the county offices are reported to be having a gay time of it in the canvass. Appointments for meetings with the people are made for many parts of the county, and at these places the candidates meet with a hearty reception, indulge in some speculating, and cultivate the art of hand-shaking, calling people promptly by their names, and tracing out family connections. I have not heard of any unpleasantness among the candidates at these meetings.

Deputy-Marshal Grief Lanekin, with several assistants, brought to the city yesterday A. J. Hall, James Lovell, and Saul Herd, all of Floyd county, charged with unlawful trade in spirits. They will have a hearing before Commissioner Wood to-day.

The commissioners appointed to ascertain and report damages to the lands of the Pennsylvania people on the line of the Pennsylvania and Franklin railroad have performed that duty. The heaviest damages allowed was to Mr. Tosh, through whose farm the line of the road runs. The damages from Pittsville (Criders-Ville) to the Franklin line is about ten miles. Some tobacco-plants have been set by several planters in this county. We have now a favorable season for the setting of the plants, but it is reported that, as a general rule, the planters have not been successful in the past.

Parties from Cascade say that there is no truth in the report that Luke W. Palmer shot and killed a negro man near Cascade on or about the 8th instant. The report was that in a quarrel with the negro, the negro persisted in pressing upon Palmer, and that Palmer shot him in self-defense.

ALPHA.

GERMAN-AMERICAN CITIZENS ASK PROTECTION.—St. Louis, May 16.—R. W. Borseller and his brother, D. Borseller, of German parentage, but born in this city, however, spent most of their boyhood and were educated in Germany, sent a letter to-day to the Secretary of State to-day, stating that for the past two years they have been greatly annoyed by Prussian officials claiming they are under obligations to serve the Prussian army; also, that their father, Carl Borseller, who is now residing in the village of Barlow, near Eckenrode, in the province of Schleswig, and who is a naturalized citizen of the United States, has been threatened with confiscation and attachment of a portion or all of the money or property he may see fit to bequeath to them, if they fail to appear in court at the city of Schleswig on the 20th day of June, 1879.

Secretary Edwards to take such action as will protect these demands of the Prussian Government, and protect them in their rights of American citizenship. The Borseller brothers have lived here since 1873, and are registered voters.

REPEALING THE RATE OF INTEREST.—The Legislature of the State of New York agreed to reduce the legal rate of interest to six per cent. It has been at seven per cent. since the adoption of the Constitution of 1847. This is very evident as a sign of the times, and as evidence that the State of New York is becoming more liberal in its legislation.

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THE TRANSFER OF CASES FROM STATE TO FEDERAL COURTS.

Mr. McLean, of Maryland, concluded his speech to-day in the House in favor of the repeal of those sections of the Revised Statutes which authorize deputy marshals to transfer their cases to the United States courts, there to be tried on indictments found in State courts. He denounced these provisions of law as unconstitutional and monstrous. The House always listens with attention to Mr. McLean, because he is a fine lawyer and argues the points at issue, more boys for the navy—western blood wanted.

Secretary Thompson, whose Culpeper blood does not count for much when the question of using troops at the polls is discussed in the Cabinet, has no idea of going to sea this summer in that old tub the Talapoosa, but he has planned a naval expedition, and means to send a war-vessel up the Mississippi as far as St. Louis to collect such boys as can pass muster to serve in the navy, Congress having recently provided for the enlistment of 750 for the naval service. The Secretary has an idea that the navy needs an infusion of vigorous western blood, and hence the expedition. He says, however, that boys from the North and South are not to be excluded, but he wants to give the western boys a chance. He proposes a change, so that hereafter boys may go to sea for two years before being put at their studies on shore. This will get rid of those physically unfit for sea duty.

THE QUESTION OF ADJOURNMENT—WAIT UNTIL AFTER THE CAUCUS.

The Ways and Means Committee have had up Mr. Fernando Wood's resolution to adjourn Congress in May, but has concluded to defer action on it until after the Democratic caucus, which will not meet until Mr. Hayes shall have vetoed the legislative bill. Speaker Randall says Congress will not adjourn until the 1st of July, and one whose judgment is quite as good thinks it will get away from Washington by the 15th of June. The truth is, nobody knows, and nobody will be able to form anything bordering on a correct judgment for a week yet.

THE SILVER BILL IN THE HOUSE TO-DAY.

After a lengthy discussion the Belford amendment was voted down. This only permitted American bullion to be deposited. Then a debate followed on the Springer amendment, which allowed only the market value for silver bullion, and gave the Government the profit between the market value and the legal-tender value. A number of speeches were made, and there was a desire on the Democratic side to permit Parson Garfield to speak longer than five minutes, the time allowed under the rules, but Mr. Coffroth, of Pennsylvania, objected. General Ewing offered an amendment that the price paid for bullion shall be the market value for the week previous to the transaction at San Francisco and New York, the two great silver markets of the country. The vote stood yes 103, noes 105, and the Speaker voting in the affirmative, carried the amendment, amid applause on the Democratic side. Mr. Conger wanted to adjourn, but the House did not agree with him, and the hard-money people said this vote indicated the defeat of the bill. The silver people, however, contended that they had strength enough to pass it, and General Warner became more nervous and excited than ever.

The silver bill is the main topic of discussion to-night, and the latest calculation of its friends is that they will carry it by a small majority. They claim all the Green-backers, and all the Democrats but ten, and one Republican—Judge Kelly—certain, and possibly a few others.

PERSONAL NEWS.

William Snyder, of Richmond, and Hon. J. B. Senor, of Fredericksburg, are in the city.

SATURDAY NIGHT'S NEWS.

BY TELEGRAPH TO THE DISPATCH.

CONGRESSIONAL AND OTHER WASHINGTON NEWS: THE SILVER BILL AND LEGISLATION—EXECUTIVE AND JUDICIAL—FIRE RECORD—AN INVESTIGATION—FROM FLINT ASYLUM FOR THE DEAF, DUMB AND BLIND—THE PRESBYTERIAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN LOUISIANA—THE PRESBYTERIAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN SARATOGA—THE LOUISIANA STATE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION—KILLED BY CAVING OF AN ORE-WASHING POND AT EASTON—PILMICO RACES—THE HARVARD BOAT-RACES—PERSONAL—FOREIGN AFFAIRS, &c., &c.

Washington.

THE CONSIDERATION OF THE POLITICAL SECTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE BILL POSTPONED UNTIL THIS WEEK—TRANSFER OF CASES FROM STATE TO FEDERAL COURTS—A WAR VESSEL TO BE SENT UP THE MISSISSIPPI FOR BOYS TO SERVE IN THE NAVY—PROPOSED ADJOURNMENT—THE SILVER BILL—PERSONAL, &c., &c.

(From Our Regular Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, May 17.—The Senate does not like heavy work on Saturday, and hence to-day let the political sections of the legislative bill go over until next week. Everybody supposed that nothing would be heard about troops at the polls, and that routine business would be disposed of with but little talk. Not so, however, for while considering the new amendment to increase the clerical force in the Post-Office Department, Senator Salisbury argued in favor of economy in the Department, and then, in the most natural way possible, drifted into a dissertation on economy in the army. He said he was in favor of making the minimum of the army 10,000, and would get rid of all unnecessary officers. Those over fifty he would retire on half pay, and those under that age he would turn adrift to earn their support like